



TRIBAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH LEADERSHIP

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



**Katherine Saluskin,
Deputy Director of
Health/Tribal
Health Officer**

We are thrilled to introduce Katherine Saluskin as our Tribal Health Officer and

Deputy Director. Katherine brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our community, having graduated from Washington State University and earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Washington.

An enrolled Yakama member, Katherine joins us at a pivotal time as our Tribal Health programs undergo significant reorganization. These changes include updating the scopes of work, revising internal policies and procedures, and ensuring all licensing and compliance measures are current. Under her leadership, we are committed to enhancing the quality and accessibility of healthcare services for our community.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT Highlights

The Health Department actively monitors COVID-19 updates and trends. Despite the ongoing presence of the virus, we are dedicated to continuous review and monitoring in collaboration with the Indian Health Service (IHS), American Indian Health Commission (AIHC), the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), and the Yakima County Health District. Our goal is to stay informed and prepared, ensuring the health and safety of our community.

Katherine also serves as a delegate for the Tribal Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Health and an alternate delegate to the Centers for Disease Control. Her extensive

experience and dedication to public health will undoubtedly benefit our community and strengthen our partnerships with these vital organizations.

We look forward to the positive impact she will have on our Tribal Health programs and the well-being of our community.

The Deputy Director of Health/THO oversees eleven programs, which include: Home Health, Public Health, Maternal Child Health, Behavioral Health, Nutrition, WIC, White Swan Health Center, Wakishwi, Tiinawit, Purchase Referred Care, and CHR.

Health Department Hosts Healthcare Conferences

The Awtnei Shixwipama program hosted the MMIP Symposium on May 7th at Legends Casino Event Center to promote awareness, provide resources to impacted family and friends, and give opportunities for the community to learn more.

The Awtnei Shixwipama program hosted a Trauma Informed Care Conference on May 21-23, 2024, at Legends Casino Event Center. Day 1 covered Historical Trauma, Day 2 covered Trauma Informed Care, and Day 3 was on Healing and Wellness. An evening Comedy Show featuring Howie Miller and Jim Ruel was held May 22, 2024.

The Awtnei Shixwipama program hosted a Work and Family Stress Conference on June 26th at Legends Casino Event Center. The conference promoted developing personalized stress management plans to maintain healthy lifestyles and learn holistic tools to prevent burnout and compassion fatigue by learning to reduce work and family stressors, increasing social support from supervisors and coworkers, enhancing use of effective coping skills, decreasing use of avoidance coping skills, and reducing depression.

FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

AUDIT UPDATES

The FY2021 Audit was completed as of August 29, 2024. The audit opinion was unmodified. An unmodified opinion expresses that the auditor concludes that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The auditors are under contract to complete FY2022 and FY2023 audits. The FY2022 Trial Balance and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are being finalized by the Finance Department to provide to the auditors. Providing these documents to the auditors will initiate the audit process for FY2022.

Yakama Nation Programs, Central Accounting, Grants and Contracts, and Finance have been working to ensure work is completed to be ready for FY2023 and FY2024 audits. A Request for Proposal will be prepared for the FY2024 Audit to gather bids for potential auditors. The goal is to return to the audit schedule and enhance internal policy to remain in compliance.

TRIBAL OPERATIONS SPOTLIGHT

SITE VISITS

Site visits were done on March 12, 2024, at Umatilla tribe and April 11, 2024, at Colville tribe. The CTUIR and Colville hosted the Yakama Nation Directors and Tribal Council to present how their Capital Infrastructure Master Plan would mark the transformation of their new government agency and several other investments for existing and future programs.

Their presentation showcased infrastructure projects that would develop larger projects for services, protecting resources, and improve the community. The Board of Trustees also unveiled new investment into the Tribes expansion of housing, community services, recreation, natural resources, and economic development.

The lessons learned from the site visits include the advancement of a 20-year master plan, land allocated and ready for construction, master plan is prioritized with identified potential funding sources, a community input component is implemented, and a capital project process is applied for internal government operations.

FIRE RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

1980 SLIDE RANCH FIRE

The Slide Ranch fire of White Swan, which started on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at approximately 3:46 p.m. was 100% as of July 8, 2024. Clean-up efforts continue in the area.

Seventeen structures, including 11 homes, were destroyed.

The Yakama Nation has opened a bank account to accept monetary donations for families affected by the Slide Ranch fire as well as hotel accommodations and emergency assistance.

RESPONSE

In coordination with our Emergency Management staff, FEMA and other agencies have completed evaluations of the area.

A major disaster filing was submitted with FEMA to President Biden. Also, the BIA BAER Team, along with Emergency Management and other YN program staff assisted in the assessment of the area for proposed treatments and restoration.

Health Division Data for FY 2024

CHR Program

Medical transports	1,687
People for People document processed	228

PRC

Priority 1's referral	2,375
Priority 2's & 3's referral	2,263

Nutrition

Estimated number of referrals	445
Patients seen	2,119

MCH

OB intake/referrals	135
Car seat referral	110
Immunizations	104

Tiinawit

Total Clients	653
Total Client Contact	2,369
Total Referrals - Inpatient Treatment	103

Behavioral Health

Clinical	585
HT	48
Medication Management	95
Primary Care Clinic	1
SOC	76
TISS	25
VRP	97
Total Clients Served	830

Public Community Health Clinic

Total patient visits	156
Total patients seen	53

Tuesday Harm Reduction Event

Total client encounters	670
Total client served	240

Wak'ishwii

Referrals to Wak'ishwi for physical education	60
Referrals to Health Heart	90

600 patients actively in Healthy Heart with 3,200 visits for diabetes management



Trauma Informed Care Conference

Department of Health

Legends Casino, Toppenish, WA

TO STAY UPDATED WITH YAKAMA NATION GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, USE THE FOLLOWING



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/YakamaNationOfficial/>



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/yakamanationofficial/>



Website

<https://www.yakama.com/>

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